

Trustees Attending:

Monica Alexander
Lucera Cox
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
Keith Kessler
David Nicandri
Ed Zuckerman

Trustees Absent:**Staff Present:**

George Bridges, President
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations
Jennifer Drake, Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life
Cholee Gladney, Interim Dean of Inclusive Excellence and Student Success
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Sandra Kaiser, Vice President for College Relations
Tina Kuckkahn-Miller, Vice President for Indigenous Arts and Education
Eric Pedersen, Chief Enrollment Officer
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation

Others Present:

Alexander Farley, GSU Representative to the Board of Trustees
Cathy Flora, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees
Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General
Paul Przybylowicz, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Chair Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. at the Evergreen State College Library L3201.

Public comment

There was no public comment

Chair Fraser thanked Trustee Fred Goldberg for his service as Chair and presented him with a small gift.

Chair Fraser welcomed and introduced the new Student Trustee Lucera Cox. The Trustees, Representatives, and staff at the table introduced themselves. Lucera introduced herself indicating she is originally from eastern Washington and her mother is an alumna. She is currently studying computer science.

President Bridges introduced Title IX Coordinator Connie Gardner, Interim Public Relations Manager Daysha Eaton, and Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications Farra Hayes.

Provost Drake introduced Masters in Public Administration Director Michael Crow, Dean of Evening and Weekend Studies Kathleen Eamon, Dean Karen Gaul, and new Agenda Committee Chair John Caraher, Director of Washington Center for Undergraduate Education and Learning and Teaching Commons Julia Metzger. Provost Drake also noted that Master in Teacher Education Director Sue Feldman and Tacoma Academic Dean Marcia Tate Arunga are new to their roles, and unable to join the meeting for introductions at this time.

President's overview

President Bridges gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and reviewed the materials made available to the Trustees and Representatives at the table.

Adoption of minutes

Motion Trustee Gonzales moved for approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2019 and August 14, 2019 meetings. The motion was seconded by Trustee Nicandri and passed on a voice vote.

Open government training

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave a short training on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and public records act. She stressed the importance of the Trustees to manage, maintain, and organize public records as required. Trustee Zuckerman suggested that a training on how to lean into strategic conversations in open public meetings would be very welcome.

College updates

Enrollment

Vice President for College Relations Kaiser and Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen presented on enrollment. It is estimated that there will be between 694 and 723 new students enrolling at the beginning of fall quarter. Vice President Kaiser stressed that there is still time before the final enrollment results are reported on the tenth day of the quarter. Vice President Kaiser discussed comparable data with peer colleges and factors that affect enrollment. Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen reviewed the admissions funnel, applications, and challenges that the College is currently experiencing and expects to experience in the coming years. He noted that concerted efforts are being made to bring more students to campus to experience Evergreen and the admissions office is in the first of a three-year plan to enhance processes and associated results. In the recent recruitment cycle, success was observed in inquiries and applications. Yield, or the conversion of admitted students to enrolled students, will be a focus in the coming year.

Provost Drake, Dean Gladney, and Vice President Kuckkahn-Miller joined the table to discuss renewal initiatives.

Vice President for College Relations Kaiser spoke on reputation enhancement and inspired marketing. A focus in the year ahead will be on improving the website to increase enrollment.

Provost Drake presented on Paths of Study. She indicated that this work will lead to improved enrollment and retention as it will support students in following defined Paths. She noted that the College will be adding a Path of Study in psychology that will serve 75 students with funding from the Legislature. Provost Drake also reported on efforts to redesign the teacher education program in an innovative way.

Provost Drake introduced Tacoma Academic Dean Marcia Tate-Arunge and discussed revitalization of the Tacoma program, noting the College's investment in growth of the program with an aim to increase enrollment and retention. An MOU with Tacoma Community College has been signed for a bridge program, which creates a pathway for students from Tacoma Community College to Evergreen Tacoma.

Dean Gladney presented on the proactive advising program which helps student navigate the curriculum. Started in spring 2018, all new incoming students were contacted proactively by advising. Additionally, the First Year Experience (FYE) Greener Foundations is being implemented this fall to support students as they navigate Evergreen. The program will support 275 students in interdisciplinary team taught programs this year, involving intentional curriculum designed to develop study skills, promote health and wellness, and provide access to additional advising.

Vice President Kuckkahn-Miller noted the new employees supporting the Longhouse and gave an overview of programs supporting current and prospective native students. She discussed outreach to native communities and events engaging prospective students on campus. Vice President Kuckkahn-Miller said plans are underway for a native pre-orientation program next fall, will grow a canoe family, and working on creating an even more welcoming space in the Longhouse that will welcome native and non-native students.

President Bridges addressed the Board, noting that all of these initiatives have critical focus on recruitment and retention. Chair Fraser thanked all for the work to date.

Budget

Vice President Carmichael joined the table and discussed College funding and reserves. He also noted to assist in matching our levels of faculty staffing to the number of students we anticipate enrolling, a retirement separation incentive for faculty members has been launched.

Vice President Carmichael noted that in June the Board passed a spending plan. That spending plan assumed a certain level of enrollment. Enrollment by new student appears to be exceeding the budget goal. Continuing student enrollment is lagging a bit. The revenue forecast will be updated when final enrollment numbers are available. Vice President Carmichael noted that he will convene a meeting of the Board's finance committee to discuss the financial forecast and status of reserves.

Trustee Gonzales requested Dean Gladney report back on if calls to prospective students that are not currently enrolled are being made.

The Trustees engaged in discussion about the renewal initiatives and the budget. Topics covered included the perception of the College, obstacles students may be encountering, enrollment decline, retention, and proposed solutions.

Executive session

At 12:09 p.m. Chair Fraser announced that the Board would move into executive session, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act RCW 42.30 to review the performance of a public employee, and to discuss with legal counsel representing the College litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party. She said that the Board would return to an open meeting at 2:00 p.m. unless notified that the time has been extended and that no final action will be taken in executive session. The Board returned to an open session at 2:00 p.m. as announced.

Conversation with Senator Emily Randall

Chair Fraser welcomed Senator Emily Randall. Senator Randall introduced herself and noted she has served for 9 months in the 26th district. She stated that she is serving as acting chair for the Higher Education Committee next legislative session. Senator Randall expressed her interest in creating opportunities for all students, with a special focus on strengthening survivor rights, creating opportunities for student access and student success, community partnerships, and supporting connections with community-based healthcare on campuses.

When asked for her observation of Evergreen, she sees Evergreen as unique and asked what we can do to describe the richness of a liberal arts education. She knows that there is a breadth of learning and understands that a liberal arts education is more than career preparation, asking how we create an environment to educate students in participation in democracy.

Executive session

At 2:20 p.m. Chair Fraser announced that the Board would move into executive session, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act RCW 42.30 to review the performance of a public employee, and to discuss with legal counsel representing the College litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party. She said that the Board would return to an open meeting at 2:45 p.m. unless notified that the time has been extended and that no final action will be taken in executive session. The Board returned to an open session at 3:25 p.m. after two extensions and a break was announced.

Supplemental budget request

Vice President for Finance and Operations Carmichael reviewed the supplemental budget request. He recommended approval of the 2020 supplemental capital budget request for capital funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to perform critical infrastructure upgrades to the Lord Mansion facility. He asked the Board to authorize College staff to submit a supplemental operating budget request for full funding of the Information Technology (IT) Professional Structure compensation increases authorized by the 2019 legislature. He noted that the Washington State Institute for Public Policy will also be bringing a request forward to the legislature.

Action item

Motion 2019-22	Trustee Nicandri moved for approval of the supplemental capital and operating budgets. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kessler and passed on a voice vote.
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Board Organization

Chair Fraser noted as new Board Chair, she would like feedback on Board committees, proposed facility and program tours, and attending other events at the College.

Trustees support the idea of optional tours after the meetings, and it was requested that the tours be more than just facility tours, including engagement and interaction with students. It was also suggested that we consider scheduling tours at the beginning of the meetings. Campus engagement opportunities suggested include a variety of ideas providing engagement with students, staff, and faculty and engagement opportunities to build connection between Trustees.

Representative Paul Przybylowicz invited the Board to attend the upcoming faculty retreat. Secretary to the Board of Trustees Harris stated that she would send the retreat agenda to the Trustees and assess quorum. Representative Farley invited Trustees to the GSU assemblies.

In response to Trustee interest in a Board retreat, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Harris will look at possible dates in January or February. Trustees expressed an interest in both short-term and long-range planning and a focus around recruitment and retention.

The Board discussed committee composition and meeting schedules. It was discussed that the committees meet prior to Board meetings thereby allowing time to prepare committee reports for the full Board. Trustee Nicandri expressed an interest to be an athletics representative and Trustee Alexander expressed interest in serving on the nominating committee when it is charged.

Action item

Motion 2019-23

Trustee David Nicandri moved for approval of the following committee make-up: Audit – Trustee Goldberg (Chair); Trustee Fraser; Trustee Gonzales; Trustee Zuckerman; and Vice President Carmichael (Staff Lead). Finance and Budget: – Trustee Goldberg (Chair); Trustee Fraser; Trustee Gonzales; Trustee Zuckerman; and Vice President Carmichael (Staff Lead). Student Recruitment and Success: Trustee Nicandri (Chair); Trustee Alexander; Trustee Cox; and Provost Drake (Staff Lead). The motion was seconded by Trustee Kessler and passed on a voice vote.

Chair's report

Chair Fraser congratulated Trustee Alexander on her recent retirement. Chair Fraser noted that both she and President Bridges attended Trustee Alexander's retirement event and it was clear that Trustee Alexander was highly respected. She noted that she went to a panel discussion on campus Monday night and will be presenting at the upcoming Return to Evergreen event.

Chair Fraser invited Trustee Lucera Cox to give a Student Trustee report. Trustee Cox noted how she came to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Cox came to Evergreen in 2016 relying on financial aid and scholarships, adding her appreciation for the good fortune of receiving financial support for her education. She is a Senior studying computer science, with a focus on end-user design. With Evergreen's flexible structure she is now enrolled in an independent learning contract (ILC) to focus on her area of passion and currently works at a tech company. She was previously a student representative on the Student Conduct Appeals Board and was a Resident Advisor (RA), supporting returning and transfer students. She wanted to do more and applied to be the Student Trustee. Trustee Cox hears that there is a lack of understanding between students, administrators, and Trustees and sees opportunities to bridge misunderstanding at the institution. Trustee Cox is grateful to be working with the Board, is eager to share student stories, as well as learn about administration of the College.

President's report

President Bridges reported we are preparing for the arrival of students for the 2019-2020 academic year. He commented that the focus will be on recruitment and retention this year. He encouraged the Trustees to participate in new student orientation. President Bridges reported meeting with several legislators and their reactions, which included questions about current work underway. He noted that he will be attending the Council of Presidents retreat along with Provost Drake, Vice President Carmichael, and Director of Government Relations Mohn. He commented that Provost Drake will be

presenting on managing institutional change. President Bridges announced that Evergreen will be continuing the lecture series at the Lord Mansion this year, noting that two events have been scheduled for this quarter.

President Bridges invited Cathy Flora to report as Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees. Representative Flora that thanked the Board for this opportunity. She introduced herself and stated that she currently works in the Payroll and Benefits office supporting staff, faculty, and student staff. She noted that she has a close connection with staff and faculty during their vulnerable times when onboarding and leaving the college. In the last year the College celebrated the retirement of 11 individuals, 12 transitioned into new positions, 26 permanent staff left the college, and welcomed many new staff. Twenty-six work areas have been impacted by changes in the last year and noted that many staff are being asked to take on the work of other colleagues as some positions remain unfilled. The College Wellness Committee has been offering workshops focused on wellness for staff. A workshop offered by Rene Smith "Making Work More Human" has received great reviews; additional sessions are planned. She is hearing concerns about the loss of the campus pool from staff who have used it to maintain wellness.

President Bridges invited Vice President Walker to give a fundraising and campaign report. Vice President Walker thanked Trustee Nicandri for being the Foundation Liaison. She announced that we have received the first significant donor pledge in the advance phase of Evergreen's campaign of \$1 million and reported that the total raised for campaign to date is over \$8.6 million. Vice President Walker thanked Chair Fraser for referencing the Return to Evergreen event and for her participation.

President Bridges invited Paul Przybylowicz to report as Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. Representative Przybylowicz reported that some faculty feel fragmented. Faculty are concerned about faculty and staff leaving the College and the impact of these departures on work underway. He noted there is concern with the representation of Paths of Study on the website and with the inclusion of Path participation in the union contract. Representative Przybylowicz noted that the Agenda Committee is experimenting with new approaches to meeting structures and the faculty plans to update the faculty handbook.


President Bridges invited Alexander Farley to report as the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative to the Board of Trustees. Representative Farley reported that four representatives worked over the summer. They noted that the GSU is involved in orientation this year and the GSU elections will be held in the fall.

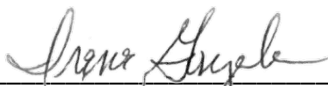
Trustee Zuckerman requested that we move the representative reports earlier in the meeting.

Concluding remarks

Chair Fraser thanked Trustee Kessler for his service on the Board. Trustee Kessler commented on the work of the Board and stated he was proud to be a part of the group.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.


Karen Fraser, Chair


Irene Gonzales, Secretary